

## Homeless Education in Connecticut

The Connecticut State Department of Education is committed to ensuring that all Connecticut children in homeless situations have the opportunity to attend, enroll in, and succeed in school. The federal *McKinney-Vento Act* requires all school districts to ensure access to public education for children and youth experiencing homelessness, and success in school once enrolled. This includes:

**Choice of School:** Children and youth who become homeless can choose to continue school in the school they were attending before they became homeless, or they may attend school in the attendance area in which the child is actually living. The decision is based on the best interest of the child.

**Comparable Services:** Homeless children and youth must be given services comparable to the services offered to other students in the school selected. Including transportation services, educational services like compensatory education programs, programs for the handicapped, programs for students with limited English proficiency, vocational programs, before/after-school care programs, and programs for gifted and talented students.

**State or Local Policies Must Not Keep Homeless Children From Attending School:** Homeless children and youth should not be kept out of school or experience enrollment delays due to transportation problems, transfer of records, immunization or residency requirements, or guardianship issues.

**Homeless Children Must Not Be Segregated:** Homeless students must not be separated from the mainstream school environment because they are homeless.

For more information or if you have questions/comments about the information provided on this web page, please contact: **Louis Tallarita, CT State Coordinator (860) 807-2058**